

CITY OF GREENBELT

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of Meeting of August 25, 2009
Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM.

PRESENT: ACE Members: Laretta Baugh, Theresa Bugg, Jon Gardner, Alla Lake, Kathy Lewis, Veronica Martin-Frederick, Sudhanshu Sinha, Dave Whiteman and Staff Liaison Wendy Wexler. City Councilmember Leta Mach was also present.

Minutes of June 30, 2009 approved as is.

ACE SCIENCE, READING & NEWSLETTER: Intro of Leaders/Program Update:

Wendy describes the hiring process and explains some of the program logistics: The Science Club will meet on the 4th Thursday at the Community Center, The Reading Club will meet at Springhill Lake Elementary School – probably the 2nd Thursday (Still to be confirmed). The Clubs will be geared at ages 8 – 14. We will seek a couple ERHS students to be assistants (Violet will handle this on her own as she is already at ERHS; Wendy will arrange this for Jacob).

Our new Club Leaders and Editor introduce themselves to the committee. Violet McKain explains she has worked for 9 years with “twice exceptional Children” and is very excited about the program. She wants to help them create stories, poems, book reviews and play games – understanding that not all students automatically love reading. Jacob Tosado is a graduate student at the University of Maryland in the Physics Department. He talks about how such clubs had a huge impact on him as a child and he would like to make it fun and interesting but to also help the students develop some critical thinking and understanding of where the science comes from. Karen Yoho is a former ACE member and a marketing director at a non profit. She has devoted years working with kids in Greenbelt and this puts all her strengths and interests into one activity.

ACE members chimed in with their own enthusiasm and ideas to help support the programs. We are all very excited about this offering to Greenbelt children. It is also agreed that Wendy will share all the contact information so ACE members might be able to share ideas with Karen, Jacob and Violet and vice versa.

MARKETING ACE PROGRAMS. One big concern is how to get the word out to students and their families that these Clubs are starting up. It is suggested that an advertisement be placed in the News Review and on the Greenbelt Listserv. Jon offers to send a Press Release to the News Review and Gazette. We also need to get notices into all the School and PTA Newsletters. Alla offers to create a flyer. Wendy will have it copied and then School Liaisons will need to pick them up for drop off at their school. Each Liaison should contact Wendy and let her know how many they want and when. Alla hopes to have the

flyer ready to go in a week. We are hoping to have it in a .pdf version. We will also have the City put it on line. For this first time – to promote it – we will mail it out to the old ACE Reading Club participants.

Wendy has created a Club Registration form that all student participants must complete at the club meeting. Wendy will make copies and supply them to the Club Leaders.

LABOR DAY PARADE PREP. Due to Dave's injury, we need someone else to take responsibility for organizing the parade. Theresa agrees to do that and Veronica also offers to assist. She takes the banner home with her, along with the ACE brochures and the list of "marchers". Alla will also try to email that list of "marchers" to the Labor Day Committee to the announcer will have all the info in advance. Theresa will work with Jon to get the school bus wagon later on.

Wendy will send out an updated notice to all participants about the gathering location (#34) after Jon sends her more descriptive information.

ACE GRANTS PROGRAM. A protracted discussion about the program, the application Wendy created and modifications. Some edits are agreed upon and Wendy will make those changes to the form. It is agreed that the application date will now be 11/2/09, with funds being remitted by January 1, 2010. Any left over funds will be given at the end of the school year for use in the following Fall.

COUNCIL WORK SESSION WITH DR. HITE. Discussion focused on the GMS renovation. Groundbreaking is scheduled for January. We still await responses from some state agencies to insure that the funding will flow properly. Currently half of the funds have been made available and it has been suggested that advocacy with these agencies are the only way to keep things on track. Discussion focused on HOW to advocate, when and where petitions were allowed, whether PTA's could participate as an organization in school advocacy. It is decided that ACE will submit a new report to Council urging their continued active involvement in this process – citing the recent meetings of school personnel on 6/14 and the Council Work Session with Dr. Hite. ACE voted on this (8-0) and Jon will write it out and circulate it via email with ACE members.

ACE SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR. Wendy drafted a calendar for the school year. It was distributed. ACE members should take it, review and contact Wendy with any concerns or necessary changes.

ERHS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. Wendy and Marie were invited to participate in this year's Leadership Conferences for all school administrators and department chairs. At the conference they were formally introduced to attendees and asked to present on ACE activities. Some issues came up that staff members asked them to assist with – specifically one issue regarding traffic flow and safety associated with that in the mornings at the school. After the Conference, Wendy and Marie viewed the problem area, did some research, and proposed a format for resolution to the ERHS Security Department.

COMMUNICATIONS/REPORTS/MISCELLANEOUS. A question was raised about the Crosswalk Grant and School Safety issues that ACE participated in. Leta reported that it was submitted on time to the state and we are awaiting a response.

One other issue raised is what happened to the City's posting of the Greenbelt School Music Festival that Dave facilitated on one of the Artful Afternoons. Jon offered to check in with Bev around this.

ACE CALENDAR – Please let Wendy know if you are **NOT** able to attend.

Unless noted all meetings will now take place in the Second Floor City Council Room, City Municipal Building.

9/7.....Labor Day Parade. Gather @ 9 AM, Parade @ 10 AM

9/22... Regular Monthly Meeting: 7 PM

10/27.. Annual PTA Presidents Meeting (6:30-8 PM); Monthly Mtg (8-9)

11/17...Regular Monthly Mtg (date impacted by Thanksgiving)

December – no meeting
